

## Typical meteorological year based on the precipitation of Nanegalito and Pacto-Ecuador

### *(Año meteorológico típico basado en la precipitación de Nanegalito y Pacto-Ecuador)*

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#### Abstract

The typical meteorological year (TMY) based on daily rainfall data was calculated in the parish of Nanegalito; 12 years were considered, from 2004 to 2015, including both years. For the establishment of the TMY, the Finkelstein-Schafer (FS) statistical equation was chosen, together with the calculation of the cumulative distribution function for each month of each year considered. The weighted sum, calculated from the FS values, was used to finally choose the months that best represent the climatic characteristics of the period analyzed by applying the root mean square deviation (RMSD). Once these values were obtained, the TMY of Nanegalito was estimated based on the precipitation. The determination of Nanegalito TMY may be useful for the management of several processes, in this and other surrounding parishes, as an example, Pacto, such as irrigation planning in crops, analysis in drought risk scenarios, and if other variables are analyzed in the future, they could serve as tools for the study of possible renewable energies.

#### Keywords

*Typical meteorological year; Finkelstein-Schafer statistical equation; cumulative distribution function; precipitation; Nanegalito.*

#### Resumen

El año meteorológico típico (AMT) con base en los datos diarios de precipitación fue calculado en la parroquia de Nanegalito. Se consideraron 12 años desde el 2004 hasta el 2015, incluyendo ambos años. Para el establecimiento del AMT, se escogió la ecuación estadística de Finkelstein-Schafer (FS), junto con el cálculo de la función de distribución acumulativa para cada mes de cada año considerado. Se utilizó la suma ponderada, calculada a partir de los valores de FS, para finalmente elegir los meses que mejor representan las características climáticas del período analizado mediante la aplicación de la desviación del valor cuadrático medio (RMSD). Una vez obtenidos estos valores, se estimó el AMT de Nanegalito basándose en la precipitación. La determinación del AMT de Nanegalito podrá ser útil para la gestión de varios procesos, en esta y otras parroquias aledañas, como por ejemplo, Pacto, como planificación de regadíos en los cultivos, análisis en escenarios de riesgos de sequía, y si se analizan a futuro otras variables, podrían servir como herramientas para el estudio de posibles energías renovables.

#### Palabras clave

Año meteorológico típico; ecuación estadística Finkelstein-Schafer; función de distribución acumulativa; precipitación; Nanegalito.

## 1. Introduction

Ecuador is a country located in South America just in the middle of both hemispheres. Because of its location, near the Pacific Ocean, between the Andes Mountains, and next to the Amazon, this country has three natural regions: Coast, Highlands and Amazon (Iriondo, 1994). This characteristic has allowed that the country has many exportation goods, being known by its agricultural products such as banana, roses and sugarcane, that are continuously increasing their exportation (Banco Central del Ecuador, 2017). Between 2013 and 2016, production and

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harvested area of sugarcane increased by 21% and 4% respectively (Corporación Financiera Nacional, 2017). Many zones in Ecuador have the ideal conditions for the sugarcane growth, this is the case of the limit between the Highlands and the Coast, where the weather is warm and the humidity allows the adaptation of the sugarcane. Places near the Highlands have an ideal climatic conditions to growth of this crop, this is the case of Nanegalito, a rural parish of Quito, located just in this limit, in the foothills of the Andes Cordillera, with a mountainous relief with slopes between 15 and 30 %, heights between 1400 to 2800 m, and with a humid climate with temperatures between 15-22 °C (Sistema Nacional de Información, 2017). The economy is principally based on agriculture and livestock, where more than the 35 % of the population works. Due to the presence of slopes, the presence of rains, in this location, it could increase the risk of soil erosion. Additionally, the lack of rains could also affect to the normal growth of the crops. In this way, some tools are useful to take advantage of the climatic information, among them it is found the typical meteorological year (TMY). In the beginnings, this tool was a set of numerical values of hourly radiation that corresponding to an hypothetic year that is constructed by choosing, for each month, a real year, that each mean monthly value of the global irradiation, be representative for all the years (Lerum, 2008). Nowadays, this approach is employed to estimate the annual energy consumptions of buildings (Jiang, 2010).

The most used method for calculate the TMY is the Finkelstein–Schafer statistical method, and during the years, different studies have been developed in order to measure the TMY in many countries for renewable energies e.g. Argentina (Bre & Fachinotti, 2016), Turkey (Pusat, Ekmekçi, & Akkoyunlu, 2015), India (Murphy, 2017), Nigeria (Ohunakin, Adaramola, Oyewola, & Fagbenle, 2013). Moreover, the TMY has been adapted to improve the agriculture in the garlic growing (Dominguez et al., 2013), and optimize the irrigation water distribution through the crop cycle (Leite, Martínez-Romero, Tarjuelo, & Dominguez, 2015). In this context, the TMY is helpful to determine the representative conditions over a long time period (Marion & Urban, 1995), and also could be used as a tool for some decisions on agriculture as was pointed above.

In this framework, the aim of the present work was to determine the TMY in a function of precipitation for Nanegalito by the Finkelstein–Schafer statistical method from 12 years data. The approximation of the calculus made for Nanegalito could be used to a near parish such as Pacto, with the same altitude, crops and climatic characteristics, where there is no any weather station.

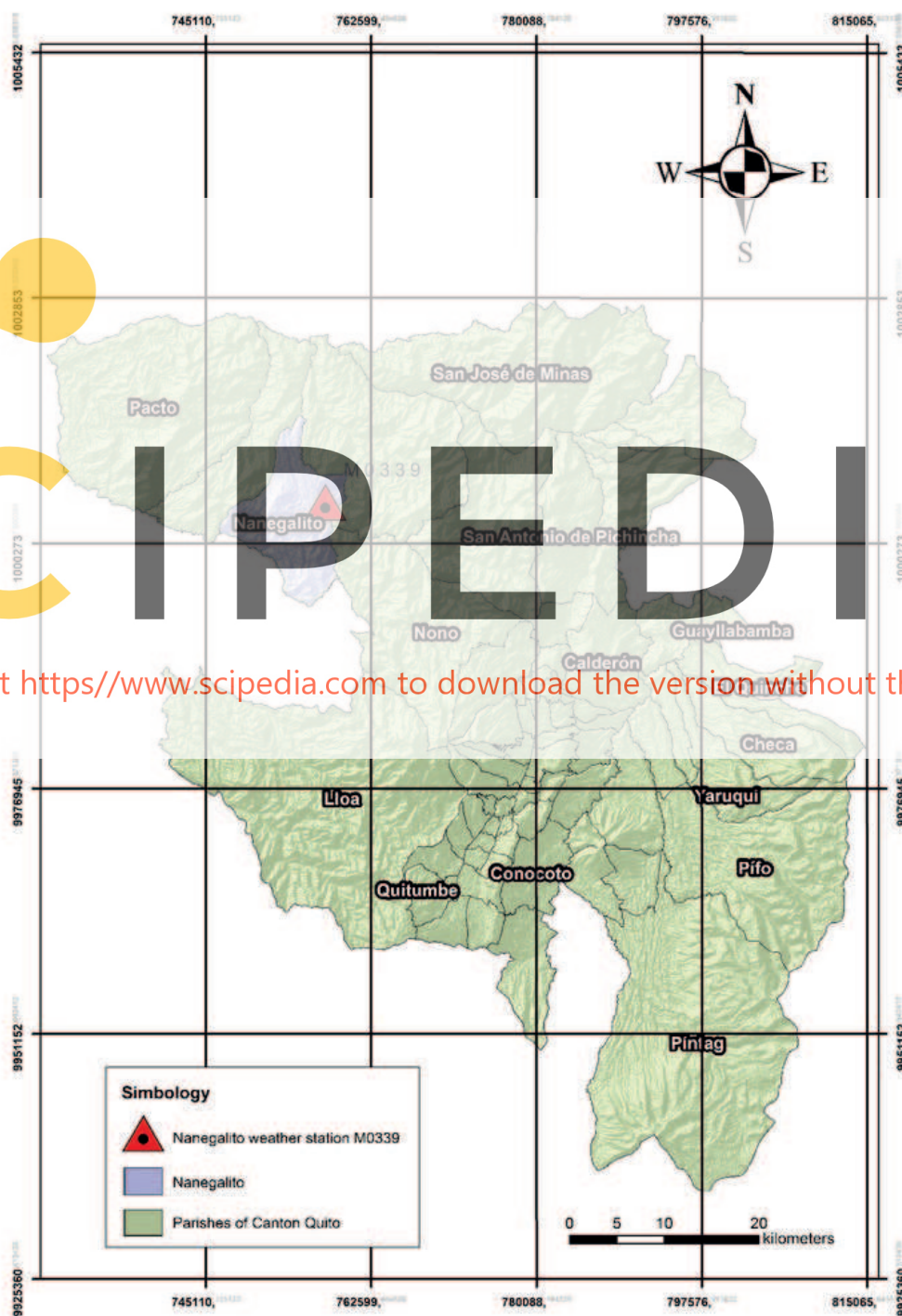
## 2. Methodology

The weather station of Nanegalito (M0339) reports only precipitation data, and is located in the UTM coordinates 757781 E y 10007068 N. The main climate in Nanegalito is a Subhumid Climate, Mesothermal hot tempered (Instituto Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología, 2017). The precipitation data was taken from daily data from 12 years in the period of 2004-2015, with a total of 4300 data approximately. This data was obtained from the “Instituto Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología” (INAMHI) of Ecuador. Fortunately, the database taken was complete, i.e. there was no need to complete missing data.

The method used in the present work was the Sandia Revised Method (Hall, Praire, Anderson, & Boes, 1978), which is employed to determine the TMY of a location. In order to accomplish the requirements, were selected the data with ten (10) or more years of consecutive measurements (Janjai & Deeyai, 2009). The data selected provided continuous data without missing information, which was helpful for the calculations.

The initial step was to collect the data from Nanegalito weather station (M339). With this data, 12 years from 2004-2015, the TMY was computed. *Figure 1* shows the location of the Nanegalito weather station in the Province of Pichincha.

**Figure 1.** Location of Nanegalito weather station in the Canton of Quito of the Province of Pichincha



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The first step was to obtain the specific ranges and then establish the cumulative distribution function (CDF) for each month of the precipitation parameter, for the 12 years period of Nanegalito (2004-2015). Next, with the CDF data, the Finkelstein-Schafer statistical equation (Jiang, 2010) was applied (*Equation 1*).

$$FS = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |CDF_m - CDF_{y,m}| \quad (1)$$

Where, N is the daily measurements in the month,  $CDF_m$  is the long term (12 years in this study) and  $CDF_{y,m}$  (for each year) is the short term cumulative distribution function.

With the calculated FS values, the weighting factor for precipitation was applied in order to obtain the Weighted Sum (WS) showed in *Equation 2*.

$$WS = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M WF_x FS_x \quad (2)$$

Where, M is the number of considered meteorological parameters, in this study was only one, precipitation.  $WF_x$  is the weighting factor of precipitation, and  $FS_x$  is the value obtained. *Table 1* shows the weighting factor used in this study (Oko & Ogoloma, 2011).

**Table 1.** Weighting factors for TMY (Oko & Ogoloma, 2011).

Tmax	Tmin	Tavg	RHmax	RHmin	RHavg	W	Sd	RF	Evap	G
0.04	0.05	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.08	0.08	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.50

Tmax=maximum temperature, Tmin=minimum temperature, Tavg=average temperature, RHmax=maximum relative humidity, RHmin=minimum relative humidity, RHavg=average relative humidity, W=wind, Sd=sunshine hours, RF=rainfall, Evap=evaporation, G=global solar radiation.

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Afterward, in order to select the typical meteorological months (TMM), that are employed to build the TMY, five candidates with the lowest WS were chosen. Finally, the root mean standard deviation (RMSD) was adapted to the precipitation, a simply method developed by Pissimanis et al. (1988) to select the TMM (*Equation 3*). Where,  $RF_{y,m,i}$  is the rainfall measured during each year, month and day of each candidate,  $\overline{RF}_m$  is the rainfall average of the long period.

$$RMSD = \left[ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (RF_{y,m,i} - \overline{RF}_m)^2}{N} \right]^{1/2} \quad (3)$$

### 3. Results and discussion

First, the CDF is calculated for each daily variable, in this case precipitation, in order to calculate the FS values, through *Equation 1*. The FS values for each month of each year is estimated and shown in *Table 2*.

**Table 2.** FS values of precipitation for Nanegalito station

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Jan	0.554	0.371	0.806	0.296	0.683	0.468	0.161	0.785	0.452	0.548	0.565	0.500
Feb	0.449	0.257	0.905	0.437	0.380	0.607	0.513	0.428	0.653	0.350	0.902	0.433
Mar	0.667	0.543	0.559	0.543	0.925	0.608	0.548	0.602	0.484	0.640	0.290	0.415
Apr	0.317	0.172	0.389	0.689	0.678	0.461	0.606	0.756	0.478	0.217	0.556	0.194
May	0.285	0.296	0.543	0.532	0.565	0.285	0.317	0.194	0.301	0.581	0.645	0.613
Jun	0.361	0.300	0.300	0.756	0.256	0.550	0.417	0.472	0.278	0.556	0.350	0.206
Jul	0.688	0.253	0.220	0.274	0.629	0.274	0.844	0.328	0.172	0.183	0.247	0.505
Aug	0.430	0.156	0.333	0.156	0.548	0.494	0.484	0.242	0.226	0.409	0.242	0.247
Sep	0.478	0.311	0.467	0.789	0.750	0.294	0.567	0.317	0.322	0.194	0.411	0.250
Oct	0.462	0.344	0.274	0.522	1.075	0.161	0.269	0.376	0.468	0.441	0.177	0.565
Nov	0.244	0.294	0.633	0.878	0.239	0.300	0.356	0.289	0.733	0.311	0.239	0.356
Dec	0.274	0.425	0.624	0.392	0.656	0.500	0.898	0.559	0.360	0.285	0.366	0.489

Second, the WS values were calculated through *Equation 2*, and were selected five candidates, which corresponding to the lowest values, that are shown in cursives in *Table 3*.

**Table 3.** WS values, cursives and underlined show the five lowest values

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Jan	0.0055	0.0037	0.0081	0.0030	0.0068	0.0047	0.0016	0.0078	0.0045	0.0055	0.0056	0.0050
Feb	0.0045	0.0026	0.0090	0.0044	0.0038	0.0061	0.0051	0.0043	0.0065	0.0035	0.0090	0.0043
Mar	0.0067	0.0054	0.0056	0.0054	0.0092	0.0061	0.0055	0.0060	0.0048	0.0064	0.0029	0.0041
Apr	0.0032	0.0017	0.0039	0.0069	0.0068	0.0046	0.0061	0.0076	0.0043	0.0022	0.0056	0.0019
May	0.0028	0.0030	0.0054	0.0053	0.0056	0.0028	0.0032	0.0019	0.0030	0.0058	0.0065	0.0061
Jun	0.0069	0.0025	0.0022	0.0027	0.0063	0.0027	0.0084	0.0033	0.0017	0.0018	0.0025	0.0051
Jul	0.0069	0.0025	0.0022	0.0027	0.0063	0.0027	0.0084	0.0033	0.0017	0.0018	0.0025	0.0051
Aug	0.0043	0.0016	0.0033	0.0016	0.0055	0.0049	0.0048	0.0024	0.0023	0.0041	0.0024	0.0025
Sep	0.0048	0.0031	0.0047	0.0079	0.0075	0.0029	0.0057	0.0032	0.0032	0.0019	0.0041	0.0025
Oct	0.0046	0.0034	0.0027	0.0052	0.0108	0.0016	0.0027	0.0038	0.0047	0.0044	0.0018	0.0056
Nov	0.0024	0.0029	0.0063	0.0088	0.0024	0.0030	0.0036	0.0029	0.0073	0.0031	0.0024	0.0036
Dec	0.0027	0.0042	0.0062	0.0039	0.0066	0.0050	0.0090	0.0056	0.0036	0.0028	0.0037	0.0049

Consequently, the selection of the typical meteorological months (TMM) is done using the *Equation 3*, with the RMSD, from the five candidates per month, observed in the Table 3. Thus, the typical meteorological year (TMY) is constructed from the values chosen, as seen in *Table 4*.

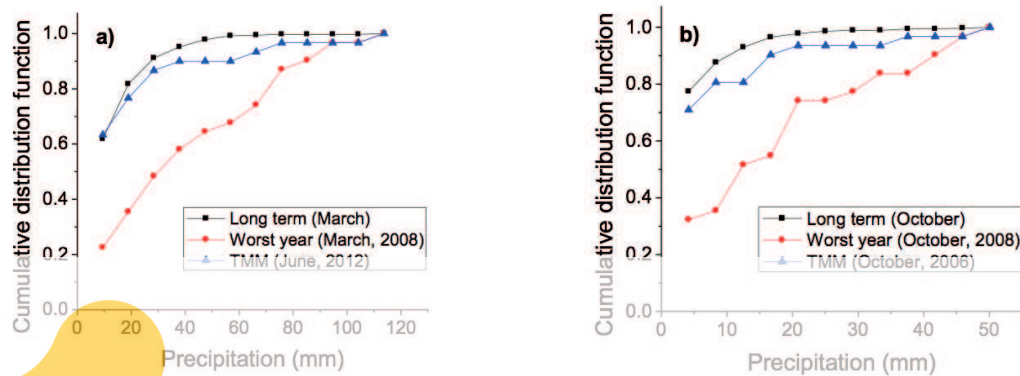
**Table 4.** TMY selection of Nanegalito station

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Year	2007	2011	2005	2005	2004	2012	2014	2011	2013	2006	2004	2013

Moreover, the CDF values obtained from the long term (12 years), the highest WS value (worst year), and the TMM selected by RMSD (ideal year) are compared. The Figure 3 shows,

illustrate as an example, the CDF values, with the previous considerations, of June (Figure 2a) and October (Figure 2b).

**Figure 2.** Comparison of the CDF values of the long term versus the worst year and TMM: a) June and b) October

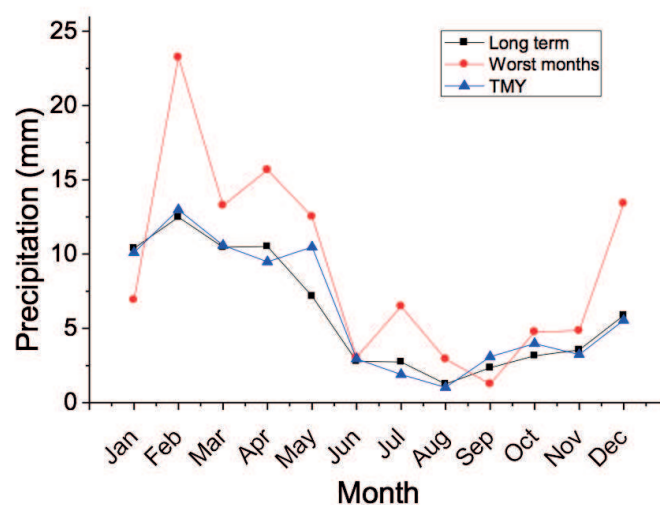


Both figures show that the CDF values of the TMM selected are similar to the CDF values of the long term, in contrast to the CDF values of the worst year (2008). Similar behavior have been reported by Jiang (2010) and Bre & Fachinotti (2016) who reported a TMY for China and Argentine.

Additionally, the selected TMY is compared with the average of each month in the long term evaluated, and the worst months, Figure 3. It could be seen that the difference between the selected TMY and the long term average is lower than the difference between the worst months and the long term average. The higher precipitation values are seen in the rainy season (Oct-May), and the lower values are in the dry season (Jun-Sep). This trend does not change during all three curves analyzed. Similar results were observed by other researchers that reported analogous behaviors by comparing global radiation, wind speed and temperature (Bre & Fachinotti, 2016; Jiang, 2010; Pusat et al., 2015).

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**Figure 3.** Comparison of the annual variation of the long term versus the worst year and the TMY selected





#### 4. Conclusions and recommendations

The present work determined the typical meteorological year (TMY) of Nanegalito from precipitation daily values. The period considered was 12 years from 2004 to 2015, included both years. The Finkelstein-Schafer statistical equation was considered to calculate the TMY.

The results indicate that the Finkelstein-Schafer statistical equation is adequate to determine the representative months of the precipitation parameter in Nanegalito parish.

The CDF obtained shows a small difference between the selected TMM and the global years, expressed as long term.

The TMY computed express a suitable description of the months that better represents the climate, of the period analyzed, of Nanegalito parish.

The establishment of the TMY in Nanegalito, could be used in Pacto, and is a good management tool to contribute to the development of plans for prevent possible risks of drought in different crops such as sugar cane. The development of the TMY for more meteorological parameters could be useful to contribute to the management of renewable energies.

#### 5. Acknowledgments

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